

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Performance of the country in sports

101. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that the country is losing rapidly in sports;
- (b) If so, the details of the international games, where India has been defeated during the last one year,
- (c) the persons responsible for such a poor training and instructions to the players; and
- (d) the steps being taken to improve the games performance in the country in view of the international status of the country?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS (SHRI MANI SHANKARAIYAR): (a) to (c) The performance of the country in sports has shown an improving trend in recent years, even though there is considerable scope and need for further improvement. Some trends of performance are:

At the Commonwealth Games 2002 held in Manchester, India secured the fourth position and won 69 medals, as against 25 medals won by Indian participants in the previous Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. In the Commonwealth Games held at Melbourne in 2006, Wrestling and Judo were not included and the number of medals available in the Weightlifting discipline had been significantly reduced—in all these disciplines India could have secured medals. Notwithstanding this India retained its fourth position. Indian sportspersons have also performed creditably in a number of other international competitions including the First Afro-Asian Games in Hyderabad and SAF Games in Islamabad in 2004 and the recent SAF Games in Colombo. In the Athens Olympics 2004, India won its first ever silver medal in an individual event since Independence while some of the sportspersons gave their best performances. In the Paralympic Games 2004 at Athens, India won 1 gold in athletics and 1 bronze medal in power-lifting.

Recently, many Indian sportspersons have excelled in other events at

the world level. A few such achievements are indicated below:—

1. Indian Archers have won the Silver Medal at the recent World Championship.
2. Indian Shooters won a number of medals, including three Gold medals by individual Shooters (2 Seniors & 1 Junior), at the recently concluded Zagreb World Shooting Championship.
3. In Billiards and Snookers—our players have won the World Championships in the last two years.

(d) The Government of India has taken a number of steps to improve the performance of the country in international sports events. These include:

1. Preparation of Long Term Development Plan (LTDPs) for various sports disciplines in consultation with the National Sports Federations concerned, former international sportspersons and sports/scientists experts, etc.
2. Intensive coaching of the players by Indian and foreign coaches in coaches camps.
3. Arrangements for training abroad for teams and individual sportspersons, as well as for Indian Coaches.
4. Financial assistance to the National Federations for participation of sportspersons in international tournaments.
5. Provision of scholarships to outstanding boys and girls to enable them to have nutritious diet, sports equipment support and to pursue sports as a career. Scholarships are also given for research in sports.
6. Assistance for purchase of equipment, scientific support, training and participation in various events within the country and abroad in provided under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and the 'National Sports Development Fund'.
7. With a view to broad basing of sports and scouting for talent at a young age, the Government is also assisting Army under 'Army Boys Sports Company Scheme' (ABSC).
8. Action is also being taken for adoption of Navodaya Vidyalaya and other schools under the National Talent Search Contest Scheme (NTSC), apart from provision of training in SAI Training

Centres, Special Area Games (SAG) Centres and Centres of Excellence, to identify talented/elite sportspersons.

9. Concerted steps are underway for further strengthening and modernizing the infrastructure of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), and significantly increase the number of young sportspersons under training in the various facilities of SAI.

10. The Ministry is also considering the launching of a 'Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan' with the aim of significantly enhancing access to organized sports and games facilities for the youth, particularly in the rural areas and in the process widening the catchment for sporting and nurturing of sports talent and promotion of excellence in sports. Discussions with the State Governments, the ministries concerned and other stake holders are underway..

All the schemes are being reviewed on a continuing basis with a view to further streamlining and bringing in further improvements, as may be found necessary, from time to time.

Scrutiny of Indo-US nuclear deal by AEC

102. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Atomic Energy Commission would scrutinize the Indo-US Civilian Nuclear Agreement once it is approved by the US Senate and Congress;

(b) if so, whether this exercise would enable concerns raised by the political parties resolved at that point of time when the US Parliament had already approved the Agreement; and

(c) how the assertion of the AEC that "We (AEC) will not allow any one to take India for a ride" would get actually translated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The July 18 Joint Statement signed between India and USA reflected number of actions that both India and US would reciprocally undertake to achieve full civil nuclear energy